

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NEA-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03
SP-02 INR-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-06 EB-04
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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JGALLUP:LA
APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM
NEA/PAB:MHORNBLOW (DRAFT)
P:JFORBES
NEA/ARP:BBODINE (DRAFT)
NEA/WCRAWFORD (DRAFT)
EUR/RPM:JCKORNBLUM
NEA:JMIKLOS (DRAFT)

-----038234 012327Z /14
O 012246Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SA, IN, IR, AF, US

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP TO SOUTHERN ASIA

MISSION MAY DRAW ORALLY ON FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS CONCERN-
ING UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S JULY 8-19 TRIP TO SOUTHERN
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ASIA IN POLADS AUGUST 2:

1.A. AFGHANISTAN: AFGHAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE
FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND EMPHASIZ-
ED THEIR POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE
REVIEWING VARIOUS ISSUES SUCH AS THE FRONTIERS WITH
PAKISTAN AND THE WATER AGREEMENT WITH IRAN AND HAD NOT

YET DETERMINED THEIR POLICIES. THEY STATED THAT WHATEVER THEIR DECISIONS THEY HOPED TO RESOLVE ISSUES WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

B. ON INTERNAL MATTERS, THEY SAID THEY WOULD BE DRAWING UP A FIVE YEAR PLAN AND THAT THEIR FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE LAND REFORM. THEY SAID THEY FAVORED COOPERATIVES OVER COLLECTIVES.

C. WHILE THERE IS GENERAL IMPRESSION AROUND WESTERN EMBASSIES IN KABUL THAT THE NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISERS IS INCREASING, THIS WAS NOT MENTIONED BY AFGHAN OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH AFGHANS POINTED OUT THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION FOR SIXTY YEARS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO SUBSTANTIAL HELP FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THEY HOPED TO GET SUBSTANTIAL HELP FROM OTHERS AS WELL.

D. WE DO NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE MAY INCREASE BUT BELIEVE THE OVERTURES FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE RESPONDED TO POSITIVELY. THE US WILL BE CONTINUING ITS PRESENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN.

E. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SITUATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE US IF ITS PROGRAMS AND PERSONNEL ARE NOT GIVEN TREATMENT AND ACCESS COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF OTHER DONORS,
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IF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTS FROM GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT OR UNDERTAKES POLICIES WHICH CREATE PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN AND IRAN.

F. PAKISTAN, IRAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE CONCERNED BY INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT BELIEVE WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD CONTINUE PRESENCE THERE AND THAT COUNTRIES IN REGION SHOULD AVOID PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS WHICH COULD PUSH AFGHANS INTO GREATER DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS. INDIANS TAKE MORE RELAXED VIEW, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN KABUL AND POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED INSTABILITY ALONG AFGHAN-PAKISTAN BORDER.

2. A. PAKISTAN: CONVERSATIONS WITH PAKISTANI OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE PERSUADED THAT THE SOVIET UNION NOW CONTROLS AFGHANISTAN AND THEY FEEL EXTREMELY EXPOSED AS A RESULT. THE PAKISTANIS ALSO REMAIN DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF INDIA, AND RESERVED TOWARD IRAN. THEY ARE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE WEST AND CENTO. GIVEN THESE FACTORS, THE PAKISTANIS ARE
IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THEIR POLICIES, IN-

CLUDING LOOKING AT A POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OBSERVER STATUS IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. THEY SUGGESTED THEY ARE EXAMINING SUCH OPTIONS AS LEAVING CENTO IN ORDER TO REDUCE PRESSURES FROM THE SOVIET UNION. BUT NEWSOM WAS ASSURED BY GEN. ZIA THAT PAKISTAN WOULD NOT TAKE ANY PRECIPITATE ACTION.

B. ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE, PAKISTANIS INDICATED RELUCTANCE TO GIVE UP IDEA OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT DESPITE OUR URGING THAT, IN LIGHT OF CHANGED AFGHAN CIRCUMSTANCES, PAKISTAN'S OWN POSITION MIGHT BE DIFFERENT AND THAT IF THE REPROCESSING ISSUE IS RESOLVED, WE CAN GET ON WITH PREVIOUS ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. ZIA GOVERNMENT

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DOES NOT FEEL IT HAS SUFFICIENT POLITICAL STRENGTH TO OVERTURN BHUTTO'S ORIGINAL DECISION TO ACQUIRE A REPROCESSING CAPABILITY.

3. SAUDI ARABIA/YEMENS: SAUDI OFFICIALS CONVEYED DEEP CONCERN OVER THE RECENT COUP IN ADEN WHICH THEY PERCEIVE AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF A SOVIET EFFORT TO ENCIRCLE THEIR OIL-RICH PENINSULA WITH REGIMES HOSTILE TO MODERATE GOVERNMENTS. THEY EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE AN INFLUX OF FOREIGN TROOPS INTO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN FOLLOWING THE COUP. WE COMPLIMENTED THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ROLE IN JULY 2 ARAB LEAGUE MEETING WHICH RESULTED IN A CONDEMNATION BY A MAJORITY OF LEAGUE MEMBERS OF PDY'S ROLE IN THE ASSASSINATION OF NORTH YEMEN PRESIDENT GHASHMI AND FURTHER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION OF THE ADENI REGIME. WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH THE SAG TO ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF ALREADY APPROVED US MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO NORTH YEMEN AND DO NOT INTEND TO RESPOND AT THIS TIME TO ANY PDY INTEREST IN IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US.

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